FBIS DAILY REPORT

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JUNTA MEMBERS PUT IN STRICT PREVENTIVE CUSTODY

PY081710 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1745 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (TELAM) -- The Armed Forces Supreme Council has ordered that Admiral Jorge Anaya, retired, and Lieutenant General Basilio Lami Dozo, retired, be put under strict preventive custody, within the framework of the investigations into their responsibilities in the Malvinas war, according to sources of this high military court. The sources added that the official announcement will be made soon.

Council Confirms Custody

PY082111 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Armed Forces Supreme Council has confirmed that the preventive custody of Admiral Jorge Anaya and Lieutenant General Basilio Lami Dozo have been put in preventive custody within the framework of the investigation into their responsibilities in the Malvinas war.

GENERAL SIMARI ARRESTED FOR MISCONDUCT

PY082320 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2240 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (NA) -- The Air Force General Staff has decreed the arrest of Brigadier Alberto Simari, who was recently relieved from duty, on charges of making statements "harmful to the policy of the government." The length of his prison term is not yet known. This information was conveyed through the following Air Force communique:

"In view of the statements Brig Alberto Evaristo Simari made during an interview published by a Buenos Aires weekly on 8 March, statements that are harmful to the policy that the government and the Air Force General Staff have adopted to reorganize the Armed Forces, Air Force Commander in Chief Major General Teodoro Guillermo Waldner has decided to discipline Brig Simari, who will serve his term in a unit located in the countryside."

ALFONSIN HAS 'NO COMMENT' ON UNION CHARGES

PY081620 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1430 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin "will not make any comments" on the harsh criticism leveled against him by union leaders Saul Ubaldini and Jorge Triacca. Ubaldini charged the president with being a "liar" and with "philosophizing instead of governing."

Upon being asked this morning about the effect that the harsh criticism raised by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] leaders had on Alfonsin, government spokesmen replied that there were "no comments to make."

Asked whether President Alfonsin will make any reply to the criticism, the sources only said that "no comments will be made." An atmosphere of complete tranquillity seemed to reign in presidential circles.

The sources were again questioned if the president would at least counter the criticism in view of the foul language the union leaders used not taking into account the fairness of their claims, but the reply was still negative.

It was leaked that the president "must not" reply to this sort of criticism.

In what is regarded as the harhest criticism leveled against the Alfonsin government since he took office on 10 December, Ubaldini said that the president "is lying when he says that there has been a 3-percent increase in January salaries as compared to those of December."

LABOR LEADER DENIES BREAK WITH GOVERNMENT

PY081842 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1148 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (DYN) -- CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary General Saul Ubaldini today explained that there is no "break" between the workers organization and the government, but he made it clear that the government must correct its socioeconomic policy, because "we do not believe in democracy amid hunger."

Among other remarks he made at Ezeiza Airport, where he went to meet a delegation of the International Conference of Free Trade Union Organizations (ICFTUO), Ubaldini announced that "over the next few days" a plenary meeting of CGT secretaries general will be held to approve the course of action planned by the Executive Council.

Asked whether the CGT will go as far as to stage a general strike, Ubaldini answered: "Let us hope that the government will resolve this crisis; if not, we shall see which way we will go."

Ubaldini indicated that the CGT plenary meeting made it "very clear" that "a socioeconomic policy capable of dealing with the current hardships of the people must be implemented."

He also announced that the CGT Executive Council will probably meet tomorrow and draw up an answer to President Raul Alfonsin, and "the program to be developed over the next few days."

He explained that the CGT decision and the harsh remarks made yesterday "are not a break, but a reaction, because many of the items of the memorandum conveyed to the president were not answered and in other cases the answers were wishful thinking, not realistic."

Ubaldini insisted that "steps must certainly be made to provide real help to those who need it most."

POLISH CARDINAL GLEMP DEPARTS FOR ROME

PY090210 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0115 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (NA) -- Polish Cardinal Josef Glemp has stated that "in Argentina I felt like I was at home," and he expressed his satisfaction with the way "the Poles have become part of the community in this country, which is so wealthy, so beautiful."

Glemp made these remarks tonight at Ezeiza Airport shortly before leaving for Rome at the end of an 8-day visit to Argentina, during which he met with President Raul Alfonsin, among others.

INFORMATION MINISTER SCORES NEWSWEEK REPORT

PY081250 Paris AFP in Spanish 0939 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] La Paz, 7 Mar (AFP) -- Major U.S. magazines, especially NEWSWEEK, have distorted the situation in Bolivia to create sensationalism in order to promote the international sale of their products, Information Minister Rueda Pena today charged. Those publications are printing alarming reports on the country's future by depicting an exaggerated image of the difficult economic crisis which was inherited from the military dictatorships, Minister Rueda Pena told AFP. The magazines, the minister said, speak irresponsibly of an imminent coup d'etat that would disrupt the democratic process, disregarding the fact that the Bolivian crisis is similar to that which affects the Western world with inflation, weakening of the productive apparatus, and budgetary deficits.

The minister emphasized that those publications fail to mention that Bolivia is one of the few countries in Latin America where there are no political prisoners, the press is not subject to restrictions, and the activities of political parties and labor unions are not curtailed in any way. He added that the U.S. magazines, instead of analyzing this reality, prefers to forecast the collapse of democracy in Bolivia, when the truth is that calm prevails in the country and there are no plots threatening the democratic regime.

Minister Rueda Pena admitted the existence of work stoppages and labor demands, adding that in a country undermined by an economic crisis social protests are only natural. In addition, the political crisis is affecting all the parties, but this does not imply the destabilization of the democratic system. The minister also said that it should be taken into account that, lacking a better alternative than the one the current government offers, the majority of the people have decided to live in democracy. Finally Minister Rueda Pena revealed that President Siles Zuazo is preparing short- and medium-term plans to resolve the country's most acute problems.

SOVIET WOMEN'S DELEGATION VISITS CONGRESS

PY081230 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The International Politics Commission of the Chamber of Deputies has received a delegation of the Soviet Committee of Democratic Women. The delegation was presided over by Lyudmila Zemlyannikova, secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions Presidium and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Welcoming the visitors, Deputy Marcos Domic, president of the commission, remarked that the delegation's visit was a second chance to carry out what he hoped would be a mutually beneficial exchange of views and parliamentary discussions at a time when it is necessary to preserve peace in the wake of the difficult economic situation.

COB DENIES CHARGES BY LA PAZ NEWSPAPER

PY081851 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] has flatly denied statements in the La Paz morning newspaper EL DIARIO, saying that they are insidious and hostile to labor unions. The working class, represented by COB, does not hold a de facto government position, said Aldo Flores, press secretary of the COB executive board. Flores said that the accusation leveled against COB must not upset the working class since the tendency of that newspaper is well-known -- an unrelenting antiunion line.

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPECTS BEAGLE SOLUTION IN 1984

PY082002 Paris AFP in Spanish 1655 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 8 Mar (AFP) -- The latest issue of the Santiago magazine COSAS, which appeared today, carries an interview with Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, who stated that the final agreement to end the Chilean-Argentine dispute over the Beagle Channel may be achieved around the middle of the year.

I believe that March is going to be very important (for the negotiations), and in my opinion the case may be finally resolved before 1 July with the final treaty, the minister added.

Foreign Minister Del Valle reaffirmed to COSAS that the dispute between the Holy See and the Chilean Government over the denial to grant authorization to four members of the opposition who have sought refuge in the Vatican Embassy in Santiago to leave the country will not affect the mediation process. The pope is never going to confound a process such as that with an isolated event such as that of the refugees. The minister also said that the monsignors who are helping with the mediation will not be confounded.

MATTHEI: DEMOCRATIZATION POSSIBLE 2 YEARS SOONER

PY082056 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei has said that the democratization process could be carried out at least 2 years ahead of time. He added that in order to get to this stage, it will be necessary to have a law on political parties, which is going to be approved this year. He also indicated that it will be necessary to create the electoral registries and the electoral board.

He added that once these three elements have been implemented, a call for a plebiscite can be made to determine if the people want a more advanced process. He said: We basically believe that this is possible. Matthei made these remarks during a press conference for foreign journalists. Matthei then talked to Chilean journalists during a visit to FIDA [Fourth International Air Fair] after a ceremony introducing the first assembly line of Brillante-25 planes.

[Begin Matthei recording] I am not saying anything that has not already been said by the president. The president has said that it is possible to get the democratic process going 2 years ahead of time. With this in mind, studies are being carried out on the laws on political parties, the electoral registries, and the electoral board. These studies are being made on the precise instructions of the president so that the democratic process can start through the political parties next year. Therefore, [words indistinct] the electoral laws, the Congress Law [Ley del Congreso], these are difficult laws but great efforts are being made to prepare them. They cannot be prepared at the same time. [end recording]

Matthei was asked about a government statement that this transition process be carried out in a peaceful manner, and about the day of protest to be carried out in the next few days.

[Begin Matthei recording] I believe that the only thing violence will lead to is possible failure. I do not believe Chileans are really willing to jump into the dark again, to have a political vacuum and new chaos. It is absolutely essential to understand that democracy works in a different way, and that, as the president said, we are building democracy, and I completely agree with it. This does not mean that we are weak. We have all solemnly made a commitment to lead the country to democracy. We have solemnly said so on television in front of the Chilean people, and this is what we are going to do. The people who are calling for protests are not helping in any way. They are not really interested in leading the country to democracy. They are again bringing back the figure of Allende as the great forgotten hero. We are never going to allow Castro-communism again. [end recording]

Asked if terrorism is obstructing the government's plans, he said:

[Begin Matthei recording] Of course it is obstructing, and this is exactly what these people want. The people who support terrorism are well-known antidemocrats who do not have any desire for democracy but who advocate the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is what they want, but they call it popular democracy. This is not the democracy we want. [end recording]

Asked how an agreement could be reached with the opposition forces, Matthei said that that was not his responsibility and that he did not want it.

CARABINEROS ATTACK SANTIAGO WOMEN'S GATHERING

PY082150 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] This is Radio Cooperativa journalist (Pedro Armendaris) reporting from the corner of Alameda and San Francisco Streets:

A few minutes ago members of the Carabineros launched a violent attack on a group of 50 women who had met at San Francisco Plaza to read a declaration concerning women's rights on the occasion of International Woman's Day, which is recognized by the United Nations.

This journalist speaking to you has witnessed a violent attack launched by a group of six Carabineros, including an officer, against a man who was on the corner of Londres and Paris Streets. The man, who was violently kicked and beaten with sticks and whose identity we still have not found out, was arrested.

At this same corner a Carabinero who had lost his temper started hitting a citizen as he was getting into his car. The man, who was taken by surprise, tried to explain that he was coming from somewhere else and that he had not participated in any demonstration.

Among the arrested are: (Juan Vinto Contreras), (Cecilia Gonzalez Pardellas), (Julieta Quisburg), and probably (Quiles Fadres Padilla), members of the POJH [Employment Program for Heads of Households], but his arrest has not been confirmed.

Report on Arrests

PY082330 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] A number of people, especially women, have been arrested in various parts of Santiago while attending events marking International Woman's Day.

According to unofficial reports, (Elizabeth Tapia Puentes) was arrested in the (Vega Central) area, while in the Paseo Ahumada security forces arrested (Claudina Garcia), wife of construction sector leader (Hector Cuevas), who has not been allowed back into the country, and (Patricia Medina). These two women are leaders of the women's department of the Confederation of Workers of the construction sector.

It has also been learned unofficially that a sizable group of people that had gone to Pudahuel airport to meet former Mines Minister Sergio Bitar, who is returning from exile, were also arrested. These persons went to the airport in a motorcade voicing their joy over the minister's return. Among the arrested are: journalist (Maria Veronica Martinez), (Maria Estela Aliaga), (Myriam Saa), (Juan Flores), (Rafael Benegas), (Miguel Merino), (Pablo Valdivieso), (Marcelo Gades), (Francisco Flores), (Esteban Silva), (Leopoldo Reyes), (Moises Leyton), (Lidia Palma), (Blas Tomic), (Julio Cano), and (Juan Pablo Letelier).

Other reports indicate that sociologist (Maria Asuncion Bustos), an unidentified man, and other professional women were allegedly arrested at the Plaza de Armas while attending a ceremony to celebrate International Woman's Day.

Regarding the recent report we issued referring to a sizable group of persons who went to Pudahuel airport to meet former Mines Minister Sergio Bitar, who is returning from exile, but were arrested, we add that a few minutes ago a petition in favor of 25 persons, all of them arrested on Sao Pablo Street when they were heading for downtown Santiago, has been filed with the Court of Justice.

MPMR GROUP CLAIMS CREDIT FOR RADIO TAKEOVER

PY081320 Paris AFP in Spanish 1237 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 8 Mar (AFP) -- The self-styled Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Movement (MPMR) today claimed credit for the takeover of a Santiago radio station and the subsequent broadcasting of a proclamation against the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet.

An MPMR spokesman who telephoned AFP and other news media stated: We have carried out several actions, such as the takeover of Radio Carrera, as part of a new offensive against the dictatorship.

Before cutting the connection, the spokesman added: We are not linked with any political party. The call came several hours after an armed commando group made up of 5 men and a woman took over the Santiago radio station.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON CLAIM TO SERANILLA CAY

PA081949 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the Colombian Foreign Ministry in Bogota on 8 March]

[Text] For many years Colombia has exercised and will continue to exercise peaceful possession of the Seranilla Cay in the far northern area of the San Andres y Providencia Archipelago. It has always considered it to be an integral part of that archipelago, and therefore a part of the national territory.

President Betancur visited the cay as president-elect in June 1982 and returned to it last weekend as part of a tour of the islands and cays of the Colombian archipelago. Colombia has for a long time maintained a lighthouse, scientific instruments, and a permanent detachment of marines on Seranilla Cay, and supplies and relief are regularly brought in by ships of the national Navy. Colombia's presence in the zone is supported by historic tradition, the cay's geographic link with the San Andres y Providencia Archipelago, and our peaceful and undisturbed possession for many years. This reality must be reflected in the sea delimitation treaties that Colombia negotiates and signs with Honduras, Jamaica, and Great Britain, parentheses [as heard] Cayman Islands. Honduras has claimed alleged rights over the Seranilla Cay, and some years ago decided to write down this claim in its internal legislation. In October 1983, Colombia and Honduras began talks seeking a juridical definition of this subject and on the delimitation of the sea areas in general between the two countries. A climate of cordiality and mutual respect has prevailed in those talks.

POLISH DEPUTY MINISTER HOLDS TALKS IN BOGOTA

LD082154 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The state and development of bilateral political contacts and economic, scientific and cultural cooperation were the topic of talks held by the deputy ministers of foreign affairs of Poland, Jozef Wiejacz, and Colombia, (Laura Ochoa de Arrida), in Bogota. It was stressed that there are opportunities to widen the advantageous cooperation in all areas.

UNIVERSITIES CLOSE AFTER CAMPUS UNREST

PA081514 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Medellin -- The University of Antioquia and the National University at Medellin, as well as the Pascual Bravo Technological Institute, have been closed until Monday to prevent a repetition of the disorder that occurred here yesterday. The rector of Antioquia University ordered the temporary suspension of school activities in view of yesterday's destruction and burning of two school buses on the university campus. Nicanor Restrepo Santamaria, rector of the University of Antioquia, said that the suspension of school activities will not affect university health aid programs. Another vehicle has been burned near the Pascual Bravo Technological Institute, and school authorities decided to close school until Monday.

MINISTER, CEPE OFFICIAL ON OIL PIPELINE ATTACK

PA081458 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1140 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The strike called in the eastern province of Napo last week led to attacks on the main oil pipeline and seven bridges, according to a report released by Government Minister Vladimiro Alvarez. The strike had apparently ended at the beginning of this week, but it has been extended by the residents of some villages in the province, who have insisted on their demands for public works and budget allocations.

Minister Alvarez said that the government has shown its willingness to attend to the people's needs, but cannot permit the destruction of public works. He accused certain unidentified activists and several officials who have not yet assumed office of fomenting the strike.

[Begin Alvarez recording] The government has acted in accordance with the law. The various sectors voicing their demands must also abide by the law. In view of the threats that have been made and that have now become a reality, the Armed Forces have assumed control of the situation. Everyone knows how difficult it is to reach the Baeza area. Precisely because of this, special agents sent to the zone to investigate should submit a report. Then those responsible for the situation should be subjected to punishment as established by the law. [end recording]

The government minister also said that a full investigation has been ordered into the dynamite attacks carried out early on Wednesday which ruptured the trans-Ecuadoran oil pipeline and damaged or destroyed seven bridges in Napo Province. He sharply condemned this attack.

According to the state secretary, a special police commission will travel to Napo Province, where most residents are on strike, in order to determine who is responsible for the attack. They will be penalized with the most severe punishment allowable by the Penal Code because of the seriousness of the offense and the danger it represents.

Rodrigo Rangles, public relations director of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, has reported that pumping has been paralyzed due to the sabotage in Napo Province, which has affected oil exportation.

[Begin recording] [Rangles] Early this morning, there was an explosion near the [word indistinct] pumping station on the trans-Ecuadoran oil pipeline, allegedly resulting from sabotage carried out with dynamite by residents of [words indistinct]. This has forced the suspension of pumping, as well as [words indistinct]. We have learned that about 15,000 barrels of oil have been spilled. In addition to the monetary loss for the country, this spill has also caused ecological problems because a nearby river will probably be contaminated. Other undesirable side effects will also occur.

In addition to the pumping stoppage, we will face problems with exports. We will not be able to comply with our foreign contracts. These are some of the problems that have occurred and that will become more serious by tomorrow if the damage is not repaired.

CEPE technicians think that the damage can be repaired in about 14 hours. That is, normal pumping would begin tomorrow, provided the people allow the technicians to carry out the repairs. Otherwise both the pumping and exporting would be delayed for as long as residents prevent these repairs.

[Unidentified reporter] [Word indistinct] group of technicians?

[Rangles] As soon as we learned the news, CEPE manager Jesus Ribadeneira ordered a group of technicians to the area to evaluate the damage [words indistinct]. [end recording]

CEPE also thinks that the paralyzation of oil exports will harm the country economically because of the loss in revenue. CEPE has also reported that the area has already begun to feel the contaminating effects of this huge oil spill. The 80-cm-diameter tubing is puntured in two places, and oil is flowing freely toward the Quijos River near the pipeline and a highway. CEPE technicians quickly dug a trench in an effort to retain the flowing oil. A part of the spilled oil was lost when it reached the river.

Meanwhile the repair work has been hampered by bad weather in the area and helicopters have not been able to reach the scene. In addition, Baeza has been left isolated from Quito because of the destruction of seven bridges. Texaco Petroleum Company has said that the repairs would take 12 hours if they were possible, but the village remained isolated as of last night.

Operations Resumed

PA081915 Paris AFP in Spanish 1753 GMT 8 March 84

[Text] Quito, 8 Mar (AFP) -- The Trans-Ecuadoran oil pipeline resumed pumping operations from its base in Lago Agrio to Balao terminal in Esmeraldas after a 48-hour suspension. The suspension was the result of a terrorist attack that damaged the pipeline in the township of Baeza at the entrance of the eastern Amazon region.

The blowing up of the pipeline -- which is 503 km long and crosses the Andes Mountain range -- in the township of Baeza forced the suspension of the pumping of crude oil for exportation on Tuesday morning, causing a loss of 15,000 barrels, estimated at $412,500 or 24 million sucres. According to an official report by the Interior Ministry, the police are investigating the attack and have arrested one person suspected of having had experience in handling explosives.

BRIEFS

NEW NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL -- Yesterday the president signed an executive decree to create the National Employment Council [Consejo Nacional de Empleo], which will be composed of the labor, industry, public works, finance, social welfare, and agriculture ministers. The National Directorate for Employment and Human Resources [Direccion Nacional de Empleo y Recursos Humanos] will serve as the council's general secretariat. Labor Minister Yamil Mahuad said the council's goal is to establish general policies for the country which could be implemented in a specific and appropriate manner to solve the unemployment problem, one of the worst in present times.
[Excerpt] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Feb 84 PA]

INTERIOR MINISTER ASKS WORKERS NOT TO STRIKE

PY081430 Lima Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Interior Minister Luis Percovich has voiced his disapproval of the workers strike scheduled for 22 March, and called on the workers to think of the crisis the country is experiencing and to avoid worsening the situation.

[Begin Percovich recording] I believe that a decision of this nature, should it be carried out, is to be deeply deplored. More than ever, the country now needs to increase production in all areas, and there is no other way to overcome the crisis and the problems were are facing. We know that the prices of our export products are depressed in the international market, and the only way to recover the level of foreign earnings is by exporting much more than we have been exporting. A work stoppage, no matter how short, even 24 hours, will undoubtedly affect production negatively, and this will only make the country's economic recovery process more difficult. In view of this, I would like to call on the labor leaders to think about the situation and to see clearly that without more production, the country's situation will only worsen. This is not the way to go about improving the standard of living. [end recording]

CITIES ISOLATED BY HEAVY RAINS, FLOODS

PY081520 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1311 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 8 Mar (EFE) -- Extensive areas in Peru cannot be reached by road due to the flooding of rivers and landslides caused by heavy rains affecting the mountainous areas in the country. Floods in northern La Libertad Department, due to the overflow of the Chicama River, have caused three more deaths, a disappearance, and serious injuries to a police officer.

In Junin Department, on Lima's eastern border, a church in the town of Angasmayo collapsed as a result of the rain. In the city of Huancayo, the rain caused five adobe homes to collapse, while many others are seriously damaged.

Victor Alfaro, from Huancayo, a deputy for the ruling Popular Action Party, today requested that the government establish an air bridge with the cities in the country's central area, where cities have now been cut off for many weeks. Alfaro said that the "huaicos" (landslides) that have affected the main track of a railroad linking this area with the coastal area are causing severe supply problems. Alfaro added that the Air Force's assistance is required.

Tumbes Department (located 1,350 km north of Lima) cannot be reached by road as of today because of the damage caused to two bridges on the "Pan American" Highway by the overflow of the rivers.

The situation is similar in Puno and Arequipa Departments in southern Peru. Trucks and buses, which usually take 15 hours to travel between Lima and Arequipa, Peru's second-largest city, yesterday took more than 24 hours to travel the 1,000 km that separate the two cities.

In the city of Pisco, located 250 km south of Lima, a 24-hour blackout occurred after the Pisco River washed out a high-tension pylon.

Besides the serious material damage, which has not yet been accurately evaluated by official agencies, the bad weather has taken at least 20 deaths over the past few weeks.

In a small town in Cuzco Department, six bodies, which were buried after a landslide, have been retrieved. At least six other persons disappeared from the Ocobamba village as a result of this landslide.

Transportation Minister Carlos Pestana last night said that Transportation Ministry personnel are working hard to open temporary passages on the main roads. In places where traffic is out of the question, the Army and the Air Force are cooperating with civil rescue workers in carrying food and providing assistance to the areas cut off by using mules and helicopters.

Despite the heavy rains affecting the Andean Sierra, rains which cause flooding both on rivers flowing toward the Pacific Ocean and the Amazon Jungle, meteorologists predict that the rainfall will not reach the catastrophic levels of 1983.

Last year, the "El Nino current" in the Pacific Ocean seriously altered the Peruvian climate and caused one of the worst floods in northern Peru and a serious drought in southern Peru.

BRIEFS

CIVIL GUARD APPOINTMENTS -- Civil Guard Lieutenant General Jaime Scamarone has been appointed chief of the second region of the Civil Guard, headquartered in Lima. Civil Guard Lieutenant General Ricardo Rojas has been appointed Director of Academic Centers. [Text] [Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0712 GMT 1 Mar 84 PY]

ANNUAL INFLATION RATE -- Lima, 1 Mar (AFP) -- The National Institute for Statistics (INE) has reported that the cost of living has increased by 125.5 percent over the past 12 months. INE also reported that the largest increases were in housing and transportation, and that its data were gathered from 33 marketplaces and 1,400 businesses in Lima based on the prices for 527 products and services. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0154 GMT 2 Mar 84 PY]

FERREIRA ON ENDING EXILE, SEREGNI'S RELEASE

PY082013 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1705 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Madrid, 8 Mar (EFE) -- Wilson Ferreira, leader of the Blanco Party living in exile in Spain for 11 years, today told EFE that the release of General Seregni "should be followed in Uruguay by the possibility of political parties acting freely with no restrictions." Ferreira added that "the Government of Uruguay is in the same situation as that of Joseph Bonaparte, trying to survive," and that the democratic process "is unstoppable."

The Blanco Party leader told EFE that General Seregni's release has been confirmed to him, but that "it is very, very unlikely that it will take place openly due to the demonstrations that his release would create." During a telephone call from Gerona, Ferreira said that Seregni's release, which would follow that of mathematician Massera a few days ago, "is necessary but insufficient and is consistent with the change of image the dictatorship seeks."

"It still must be seen whether Seregni, as well as other citizens, will have their political rights restored and whether the political parties will be allowed to act freely" before we talk about the beginning of a democratic process in Uruguay. The political leader hoped that "the repression of the regime will have a boomerang effect. I have the feeling that there will be an overall outburst of freedom."

When he was asked whether he was thinking of returning to Uruguay, Wilson Ferreira confessed that "I have had my bags packed for 11 years and am expecting an outcome soon." Ferreira commented on the government's recent decision to close down the newspaper "ULTIMAS NOTICIAS" of Montevideo for publishing some of his comments, saying that "it truly reflects what is happening." The most remarkable thing is that the owner of the newspaper belongs to "the Moonie sect, whose president is the president of the Republic's father-in-law."

DEMONSTRATORS DEMAND RELEASE OF LIBER SEREGNI

PY082008 Paris AFP in Spanish 1711 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Mar (AFP) -- Several hundred people this afternoon demonstrated in front of Montevideo Police Headquarters, clapping their hands and shouting to demand the release of General Liber Seregni, former presidential candidate of the leftist coalition in the 1971 elections.

The demonstration, staged by 300 people, was apparently caused by a series of reports that have circulated since last night on Seregni's imminent release, a measure that Seregni's lawyer, Hugo Batalla, and others are expecting in the next 24 hours. According to Batalla, Seregni may not be released today because not all legal requirements have been met; however, he did not rule out the leader's release on Friday, 9 March.

More than 100 Uruguayan and foreign journalists were in front of Police Headquarters awaiting the eventual release of Gen Seregni. While clapping their hands, demonstrators shouted slogans: "We want Seregni," and "The military dictatorship will end." The police building was heavily guarded, but in view of the growing number of demonstrators, an antiriot squad was sent and peacefully dispersed the crowd; there were apparently no arrests.

MINISTER ON INCIDENT IN EMBASSY IN CUBA

PA090252 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Report by Luis Alfredo Gomez]

[Text] The Venezuelan charge d'affaires in Cuba told Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul today that there has been no incident on the premises of the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana. Nevertheless, the Venezuelan Embassy has ordered an investigation to determine whether or not the incident which was reported today by the media took place in the vicinity of the Venezuelan diplomatic mission building in Havana.

We also asked Foreign Minister Morales Paul to comment on reports that three Colombian ships were attacked by the Venezuelan National Guard while navigating in the Arauca River.

[Begin recording] [Morales] Indeed, that is what the defense minister's report stated. It involved several smugglers who did not obey National Guard orders to stop. This was the cause of this incident.

Regarding the incident in the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba, which resulted in the alleged shooting death of an individual, the charge d'affaires has sent a dispatch saying he has no knowledge of such an incident. He received orders to investigate whether (?the incident took place) in the vicinity of the embassy.

[Gomez] You met with FRG parliament members yesterday....

[Morales, interrupting] Yes, I did.

[Gomez] Did you discuss points of interest about [words indistinct]?

[Morales] They showed great interest in the development of the Contadora Group's efforts.

[Gomez] How about the fate (?of refugees who have been) in the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba for the past 3 years? What is going on there?

[Morales] Venezuela maintains its support for the right to asylum, as it has done in the past.

[Gomez] What about the normalization of Cuban-Venezuelan relations?

[Morales] They are subject to the respect for the principles of international law, as the government has announced. [end recording]

TUPAMAROS BELIEVED INVOLVED IN BANK ROBBERIES

PA082231 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] in the state of Portuguesa has not discarded the possibility that a Tupamaro group may have participated in the robberies of several banks in Acarigua. This statement was made by (Tulio Guerrero), DISIP commissioner in the area, who commented on the simultaneous robberies staged at the Industrial Bank of Venezuela and the Latin Bank.

The official explained that [words indistinct] clues and that the work is based on a thorough investigation conducted in accordance with data provided by eyewitnesses. (Guerrero) recalled that a guerrilla cell which had attacked several of the country's banks was recently dismantled. Some 10 of these Tupamaros were not captured, and it is believed that they may have reorganized and may now be acting alongside common criminals.

BRIEFS

MILITARY CHANGES -- Army Colonel Serafin Marquez Roa has taken office as director of information and public relations at the Defense Ministry. He replaces Army Colonel Hernan Vasquez Pena, who has been appointed commander of the Military Household's Honor Guard Regiment. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 18 Feb 84 p B 17 PA]

DEVELOPMENT OF INTELLIGENCE -- Caracas, 24 Feb (AFP) -- It was reported today in Caracas that President Jaime Lusinchi has assigned the development of intelligence in Venezuela, which in the past 5 years had been handled by a state ministry, to Aline Lampe, planning director of the Culture Ministry. The former ministry post has been eliminated. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1537 GMT 24 Feb 84 PA]

PRIVATE SECTOR FOREIGN DEBT RESTRUCTURED

FL081850 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2340 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 7 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico today restructured approximately $650 million of the private sector's overdue debts derived from direct credits secured or guaranteed by the Export-Import Bank (EXIMBANK) of the United States, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit announced. The transaction was signed by Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog and U.S. Ambassador John Gavin. As an immediate result of the agreement, Mexico will be able to begin extending a $500 million line of credit, guaranteed by the EXIMBANK, to finance the importation of consumer and capital goods.

At the signing ceremony, the directors general of the National Finance Bank, Inc (NAFINSA) and the National Foreign Trade Bank [Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior] (BANCOMEXT), Gustavo Petrioccioli and Alfredo Philips Olmedo respectively, signed a credit agreement with EXIMBANK to finance overdue debts at a term of 5 years with a 3-year grace period and at a 0.5 percent rate.

It was announced that the signing of this agreement reflects the effort and goodwill of the Governments of Mexico and the United States to resolve the problems faced by private industry because of foreign indebtedness. Over the next few months, similar agreements will be signed with the 15 creditor countries to regularize trade and financial relations, EXIMBANK noted.

PSUM LEADER CALLS FOR LEFT-WING UNITY AT RALLY

PA090103 Mexico City El DIA in Spanish 4 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Angel Aguilar Perez]

[Text] Pablo Gonzalez Alvarez, secretary general of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) Central Committee -- refraining from stringent criticism of the current regime, but noting the antidemocratic measures of the PRI and official union organizations -- yesterday told a large crowd of some 10,000 people gathered in the Santo Domingo Plaza, that the Mexican left wing must become a focal point for the masses so that they can establish a democratic regime in which freedom and social justice prevail.

Pablo Gomez said: "This is not the time for internal disputes within the PSUM, but the time for a struggle alongside the working people." He spoke during the PSUM National Struggle March that began yesterday in the capital city and in more than 20 cities in the interior.

The March began at 1715 at the Monument to the Revolution, and ended an hour later at Santo Domingo Plaza. During the march, Rolando Cordera, coordinator of the PSUM deputies, addressed the crowd. In his prepared speech, he said: "The groups governing the state are determined to isolate themselves from the people." Cordera also pointed out the need to change this government to which "our country's authoritarian tradition has accustomed us."

He said that the PRI offers the masses "a policy that is not disposed toward a wage increase, a single additional hectare of land, or low prices for produce, or toward correcting inflation which hits the poor people's budget daily."

Cordera said: On the other side, the PSUM offers the people a democratic system in which men and women can truly participate in the resolution of national problems and in which the power of the Republic's president is reduced.

He pointed out that, unlike the PRI and PAN [National Action Party], which fear an authentic democracy in Mexico, the PSUM fights and struggles to achieve such a democratic system because "democracy is the oxygen of socialism. That is why we speak of democracy."

Cordera said that if the PRI were a democratic party, it would call for internal elections and would not coerce Mexicans into joining the party. He pointed out: Much to the contrary, the PRI "is the party with an antidemocratic stand toward labor unions."

He said that if free, secret, and general elections were held in PRI-controlled labor unions, a new type of labor organization would emerge. He maintained: "The PSUM is here to fight for labor union democracy and to separate the unions from the PRI."

In addition, the PSUM leader pointed out the need for the Mexican left wing to develop new ways to achieve unity that could become the basis for the formation of a new left in the country. Cordera added: It is necessary to stop thinking of the left as a movement lacking the ability to act and to mobilize the masses.

He demanded united action to counteract, among other things, the economic policies imposed by the current region "that are chocking the majority of the population."

Rolando Cordera said: "A genuine political reform must separate from the tradition of authoritarianism and intolerance that is the trademark of the relationship between the government and society."

"Only those who defend the interests of a few, a policy of privilege, or petty bureaucratic positions need fear a democracy conceived as the government of the masses. There is certainly a risk that the right wing, always spearheaded by the power of the business sector and imperialism, could set up a destabilization mechanism that might even gain the support of the masses. However, we cannot face the right wing successfully by restricting rights and by supporting the worst, most antidemocratic procedures," he said.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR APPOINTED -- Olga Pellicer Silva has been appointed Mexico's new ambassador to Greece. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 1 Feb 84 pp 4-A, 16-A PA]

DIPLOMATS PRESENT CREDENTIALS — The Cypriot, Bolivian, and Finnish ambassadors, Charalambos Christoforou, Mario V. Guzman Galarza, and Pentti Talvite respectively, presented their credentials to Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor on 16 February. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Feb 84 p 17 PA]

ILLUECA CONFIRMS ELECTIONS IN LETTER TO REAGAN

PA081816 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 8 Mar 84 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Letter from Panamanian President Jorge Illueca to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, dated 29 February in Panama]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America

Dear Mr President: I was greatly pleased to receive your cordial greetings in your kind letter, dated 21 February 1984, on the occasion of my inauguration as constitutional president of the Republic of Panama. I agree with you regarding topics of great importance which are of individual and joint interest to our countries.

As for the democratization process that is under way in Panama, my government is firmly resolved that the elections will be held in full accordance with constitutional and legal precepts. It is my wish and my duty to guarantee all citizens and political parties the exercise of freedom in each of the political activities leading to the elections, whose results will reflect the true expression of the Panamanian people's will in choosing their leaders.

I have devoted many years of my life to achieving true democracy in Panama. My commitment to the punctual, efficient, and honest fulfillment of the electoral timetable scheduled for this year conforms to this. This must be so, because it is only with government leaders selected by the people that we can solve the various serious problems confronting the Republic of Panama and the other countries of the American continent.

As president of the 38th UN General Assembly session, I attach the highest value to your expression of U.S. Government support for the efforts of the Contadora Group and the great significance you attach to Panama's contribution in the search for detente and peace, not only in the region but also at the world level. My government will steadfastly pursue the regional policy that has characterized my country in recent years.

I also consider it obvious that, since Panama was one of the countries that took the initiative in creating the conditions and drafting the necessary documents for the peaceful and negotiated solution of the conflicts affecting Central America, the social peace and institutional stability of my country are basic to pacification and understanding in Central America. To achieve this goal it is necessary that the nations with interests and ties on the Central American isthmus take specific steps that will contribute to regional detente and understanding.

Mr President, I share you opinion on the need for continued friendly relations between our peoples and governments, inspired by a spirit of mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation. The two countries must attach special consideration to maintaining harmonious cooperation in the faithful fulfillment of the provisions of the 1977 Canal Treaty. This treaty was conceived as a dynamic instrument for the full realization of my country's sovereignty over all of its territory, and provides for Panama to assume total responsibility for the administration and defense of the interoceanic waterway in the present century. Therefore, nothing could be more gratifying to me than your favorable disposition to that effect.

I appreciate once more, dear President Reagan, the cordial expression of friendship and good wishes for my administration that you have kindly conveyed, and I take advantage of the opportunity to reiterate to you my sincere wishes for your health and personal happiness, as well as for the success of your administration.

Cordially,
Jorge E. Illueca, President of the Republic

NORIEGA RETURNS FROM VISIT TO U.S., FRANCE

PA081603 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p A-1

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega returned to the country on Monday after a successful visit to the United States and France on activities related to his high post. We cordially greet the commander in chief of the National Defense Forces and are glad he has returned to the fatherland.

PDC LEADER ON ELECTION PLANS, MILITARY'S ROLE

PA082029 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, has said that the high professionalism of the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama will guarantee a just electoral process. Cochez also referred to the activities of the Democratic Opposition Union:

[Begin recording] [Cochez, in progress] ...after going to Miami for a routine medical checkup and spent Carnival finishing the details of the political strategy with Carlos Rodriguez, who was also in Miami.

[Unidentified reporter] What has the Democratic Opposition Union specifically planned, now that political activity has increased?

[Cochez] As of tonight, it is expected that the alliance's commercials will appear on television. As of tomorrow, the newspapers will publish a paid advertisement that includes the schedule of tours to be carried out over the weekends in all the provincial capitals. In addition, the various neighborhoods in Panama City will be visited during the weekdays. In other words, we will have a political campaign where opposition candidates will be on the street every day, up to 6 May.

[Reporter] Won't Dr Arias' health and age represent an obstacle to these tours?

[Cochez] It might sound strange, but from what I have seen, Dr Arias seems to get healthier, stronger, and more dynamic when he starts a political campaign. That is what we have ascertained, and we believe that he will be able to participate in all the activities and cover the areas which will be assigned to him during the campaign with the same energy he has always shown for political activities.

[Reporter] Dr Cochez, what do you think about the present political situation?

[Cochez] I believe that the situation is extremely delicate. The rumors being spread include not only one about Dr Arias' health but one about a coup d'etat either on Sunday or Monday -- during Carnival. However, I sincerely believe and am firmly convinced that the National Guard's professionalism in 1984 is different from that which existed in 1968, and that it is a real guarantee that the country will conclude the electoral process without problems. Contrary to what has happened in other countries, it will respect the people's will, as expressed at the ballot boxes on 6 May. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

SECURITY MINISTER DENIES MILITARY BUILDUP

FL081706 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0122 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] San Jose, 7 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano today denied that Costa Rica is acquiring arms and said his country is far from joining the arms race. He added, however, that his government is currently negotiating the acquisition of arms for police, not military use, to guarantee his country's territorial integrity and the state's security.

During an interview with NOTIMEX, Solano showed concern over the tone of newspaper reports presenting Costa Rica in a belligerent posture against Nicaragua. He said that there is absolute and total calm on the northern border at this time. He said that he believes that sending reinforcements to the Nicaraguan border in recent days to carry out patrols is normal. This measure was taken to support the civilian guard contingents that Costa Rica has stationed along the 320km border with that country. Solano is one of the main supporters of detente in bilateral relations with Nicaragua, which began 1 year ago, and has said on several occasions that he advocates a continuing dialogue with that neighboring country based on mutual respect and a principle of nonintervention.

DEPUTY MINISTER ON ARMS SEIZURE, RADIO CLOSURE

PA090153 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Feb 84 p 11

[Text] Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon has denied a series of reports that the Rural Guard seized a large quantity of arms at a house in Guadalupe belonging to the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE. According to the reports, the arms, valued at 4 million colones, were seized yesterday by a Rural Guard patrol. A radio station in Purral in Guadalupe, used by ARDE to relay messages to the mountains in southern Nicaragua, was also reported to have been shut down yesterday.

When questioned about these reports, however, Deputy Minister Chacon said that the Rural Guard had not seized any arms in recent days and that "the report appeared as if someone had played a bad joke on a newsman." On the closure of the radio station, he said that it was shut down by the Radio Control Office. [Oficina de Control de Radio] 6 months ago and not yesterday, as was reported, because it was operating illegally.

Concerning dismissals from the Rural Guard, Chacon said that these took place 15 days ago when some authorities were found guilty of a series of infractions. Finally, he said that only 42 weapons have been seized from ARDE. He said that they were seized several months ago in the San Carlos zone and that they are now state property.

EL SALVADOR

EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS TURNED OVER TO CONSULS

PA082249 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2117 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Military sources today reported that two journalists, one French and the other German, were released last night to their respective consuls after being found in a "restricted zone" of Chalatenango Department in northern El Salvador.

Remi Fontaine, a Frenchman who works for "Radio Europe 1" and Mickael Stuhrenberg, a German from the AFP news agency, were found by Army troops without the official permit required for journalists to travel into the interior of the country, according to the same sources.

The two journalists were taken "for their own safety" to the Armed Forces General Staff headquarters in San Salvador and released to their respective consuls last night. The two journalists had apparently arranged through contacts in Paris to enter the guerrilla-controlled area, but were discovered by the Army before they reached their destination. The guerrillas have their second most important bastion in Chalatenango, which is one of the areas of most intense fighting. The military authorities have allowed the two journalists to stay in the country, the military sources added.

U.S. SAID RECOMMENDING INCREASED AIR ATTACKS

PA081602 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The criminal dictatorship has fired 70 bombs and rockets on the towns of Mirandillas, Zapote, and La Pava in Suchitoto in Cuscatlan Department. On 3 and 4 March, during the day and night, several A-37's and a push-and-pull plane dropped U.S. rockets and 250-lb bombs. They strafed the houses below.

An entire family was killed. Several children who were sleeping at the time of the air raid were killed. The criminal dictatorship is increasing its air attacks on our towns, using one of its preferred tactics in trying to stop the Salvadoran people's revolutionary advance. The U.S. advisers are recommending that the dictatorship increase its air attacks with several A-37, A-7, and push-and-pull light planes.

FMLN BLAMES ARMY FOR RED CROSS WORKERS' DEATHS

PA081559 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The puppet government is directly responsible for the deaths of the Red Cross volunteers. Troops of the 5th Infantry Brigade once again used a tactic that has been used by the Armed Forces since the beginning of the war. The tragic result of this was the killing of two Red Cross volunteers. They were killed at midnight on Tuesday when FMLN groups attacked the enemy garrison at Guadalupe. The enemy sent a battalion to reinforce their position on the road from La Paz to Guadalupe. Showing their low combat morale, they intercepted a Red Cross ambulance that was cruising the area and used it as an advance unit followed by the troops.

The Red Cross workers were assigned a military mission, to detect the FMLN positions along the route and to warn the troops. They sent the ambulance with the lights out and not sounding the siren. When it came upon our first positions it turned on its lights and siren fulfilling the mission that the enemy had assigned to it.

When the ambulance reached our second position the clash between our forces and the enemy began. In the ensuing shoot-out, the ambulance, which was in the crossfire, received many direct hits that resulted in the deaths of two of its occupants. This tragic incident shows the risk run by those aid or rescue groups of the Red Cross or Green Cross who voluntarily or otherwise are involved in military operations.

It also shows that the Armed Forces use these groups and involve them in military missions, knowing the respectful attitude that the FMLN adopts toward those groups.

VENCEREMOS CLAIMS ATTACK BY HONDURAN PLANE

PA090150 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos has just received this last-minute report on a Honduran plane's attack on El Salvador.

The report says that at 1500 on 8 March, a U.S.-made Dragonfly A-37 coming from Honduras fired 20 rockets in Ocotillo canton, Nueva Esparta municipality, La Union Department, which terrorized the civilian population. Our forces report no casualties. This is another attack carried out against our people by General Alvarez Martinez, the puppet of imperialism.

HONDURAS

ALVAREZ TERMS NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS 'FARCE'

PA081704 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 6 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, which are backed by the United States, has predicted in this capital that Nicaragua's November elections will be "a complete farce." He said that his country, Honduras, could never coexist with a Sandinist regime. The military officer characterized Nicaragua as "a Soviet base for subversive activities."

General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, who is thought to wield considerable power behind the civilian government, said that he favors the U.S. military presence in Honduras until the Honduran Armed Forces' expansion program is completed. The statement by Gen Alvarez illustrates the deep distrust that the Sandinists have aroused among their Central American neighbors, as well as the difficulties that the Contadora Group -- Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela -- faces in its attempts to find a negotiated, peaceful resolution to the regional conflicts. In one of his infrequent interviews with foreign newsmen, the five-star general characterized himself as a humble subordinate of President Suazo Cordova and as an apolitical soldier interested only in fighting terrorism.

He said: "Nicaragua is a Soviet base for subversion." He asked: "How could we defend ourselves when confronting a Soviet base whose purpose is to engage in constant aggression to serve the second-largest world power (Russia)?" Gen Alvarez commented: " I don't think that we can coexist. There is no way." He added: "As long as there is a Soviet operations base in Nicaragua there will be no peace in Central America."

The general was asked if the Sandinist regime's promises to hold free and honest elections in November could be interpreted as a move toward moderation. The general made a gesture of disapproval, and answered: "I am worried about those elections." He explained: "I am worried about the possibility that some countries may fall into the Sandinist trap and consider the Marxist-Leninist regime legitimate." He added: "The Nicaraguan elections will be a complete farce. They will be neither honest nor pluralist." Gen Alvarez said: "It could be that the Sandinists are falling back right now because of pressure from the Reagan administration and several European countries." Gen Alvarez wondered: "But for how long?"

Gen Alvarez explained that the duration of the U.S. presence in Honduras to aid this country's defense against Nicaragua "is a problematic issue." He noted: "I have drawn very clear objectives for myself: to have the necessary training and equipment to give the Honduran Armed Forces the minimum strength needed to discourage Sandinist Nicaragua from maintaining its threatening attitude." The general added: "This would mean increasing Honduras' current military and police personnel level by 50 percent."

The general also said that "logical thinking could led to the belief that the Armed Force should help the Nicaraguan guerrillas fighting the Sandinists." He was asked about news reports that claim that his troops are doing just that. The General shrugged and shouted: "Prove it!"

Gen Alvarez affirmed his cordial support for President Reagan and noted: "No one could convince me that any other U.S. president could interpret the Central American situation as well as Mr Reagan has."

Gen Alvarez showed less approval for former President Jimmy Carter, who supported the overthrow of President Somoza -- thus opening the doors to the Sandinist seizure of power and who was less disposed toward giving U.S. military assistance to the Salvadoran -- Government. "If Carter had remained in power 1 more year, just 1 more year, the entire Central American area would be on fire right now," Gen Alvarez concluded.

PAZ BARNICA ON EXPULSION OF NICARAGUAN DIPLOMAT

PA090245 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] This afternoon, Foreign Segretary Edgardo Paz Sarnica and Secretary of the Presidency Carlos Flores Facusse met with Nicaraguan Ambassador to Honduras Edwin Zablah at Government House to discuss bilateral diplomatic relations and to make known to the Nicaraguan ambassador the Honduran Government's decision to declare Nicaraguan Embassy Counselor Javier Aviles persona non grata because, as Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica said, Aviles hinders diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Honduran foreign secretary made the decision official and provided details:

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] There have been specific attitudes that show that the Nicaraguan Government is unwilling for the two countries to reach agreements within the universal and regional framework of the negotiations and talks [words indistinct] that are under way. Today, the foreign under secretary delivered a note to the Nicaraguan ambassador informing him that the Government of the Republic has declared Mr Javier Aviles, the counselor of that embassy, persona non grata. The note does not contain any explanation because the host government is not required to explain to the other government the reasons for its decision.

On repeated occasions, Mr Aviles has formulated injurious statements about the conduct of some Honduran public officials. The 1971 Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations and the principles of international and diplomatic law that are in effect for the members of the international community specifically establish that diplomats are obligated to contribute to creating conditions of friendship between states. They should not express public views about the political situation of the state to which they have been accredited, nor should they create situations of friction. The Honduran Government does not believe that Mr Aviles has followed these guidelines. The Honduran Government has the sovereign power to make this decision.

[Unidentified reporter] Could this action harm the work of the Contadora Group?

[Paz Barnica] Well, it will view this as an incident that has taken place in the bilateral relations between the two states. It places Nicaragua in a difficult position that must be explained. Hopefully, Nicaragua will not continue to lie. [end recording]

Paz Barnica also said that the Nicaraguan Embassy hinders the peace negotiations:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] the Nicaraguan ambassador, and I respect -- but do not share -- his opinion. It would mean that he would not be willing to contribute to improving those relations. That is his obligation as Nicaragua's diplomatic representative in Honduras. He has the obligation to contribute to improving relations, as does Honduran Ambassador to Nicaragua Isidro Tapia. Tapia acts with prudence, common sense, and wisdom. The other members of our diplomatic mission in Nicaragua also act this way. Ambassador Zablah is always received by the Foreign Secretariat. I always meet with him if he so requests. I receive his calls at night. I have told him that I am always available to help solve whatever problems might arise. Nevertheless, Mr Aviles misinterpreted this attitude and formulated injurious, harmful, and offensive statements against the dignity of Honduran public officials and therefore, harmful and offensive to the dignity and integrity of the country. I want Ambassador Zablah to know that this Foreign Secretariat will always be open to discuss any problem that he wants to. [end recording]

PAZ BARNICA ON COMPETING CLAIMS TO ISLAND

PA081646 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Doctor Noe Pineda Portillo yesterday complained that the president of Colombia has seized the Island of Serrania Cay, which is occupied by Colombian military forces. The Colombian president's occupation of Serrania Cay violates Honduras' territorial integrity because Honduras claims the key as part of its insular territory.

Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica told reporters Antunez and Rubi that Honduras will reassert to the Colombian Government its legitimate claim to the Island of Serrania. To satisfy the Hondurans, who yesterday were surprised to hear this, especially the fact that the Colombian president had come to Island of Serrania and claimed it as part of Colombia, we now present the Honduran foreign secretary's reaction:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Doctor, what can you tell us about Belisario Betancur's comments in which he said that an island that belongs to Honduras is part of Colombia?

[Paz Barnica] I have read the statements made by the illustrious Colombian President Belisario Bentancur and about his visit to the island, where he issued a call, and I quote, from the northernmost part [desde lo mas alto] of Colombia to the Central American countries, unquote, to seek peace. Honduras will reassert to the Colombian Government its legitimate right to the Island of Serrania, and we hope to achieve a comprehensive agreement between the two countries to solve this dispute concerning our sovereignty and territorial integrity. There have been some tentative meetings between delegates of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat and the Colombian Foreign Ministry to solve this matter in a satisfactory way.

[Reporter] Doctor, what specific action is the Foreign Secretariat currently taking at the diplomatic level to recover all the insular territories that are in the hands of Belize, El Salvador, and now Colombia?

[Paz Barnica] Juridical problems, disputes, and controversies between states require a meticulous analysis and careful handling through peaceful means, which are specified in international law. Regarding El Salvador, we are wor! g on the basis of the general peace treaty which was approved and signed in 1980. Regarding Belize, we have made some contacts and we have held meetings to achieve a satisfactory resolution of our dispute with that country. As for Colombia, there have been some meetings, as I have said, between representatives of the Colombian and Honduran Foreign Ministries. Our country's role is to reassert its sovereign rights according to our Constitution and work for these rights, with faith, firmness, and perseverance -- but also without desperation.

[Reporter] Is there a possibility that President Suazo Cordova might visit the Island of Serrania -- where no Honduran president has ever set foot?

[Paz Barnica] That depends on the circumstances. In any case, the fact that the Constitution states what belongs to Honduras represents a fundamental recognition by the juridical norms that regulate the country's political life.

[Reporter] Mr Secretary, what topics did you discuss at the National Security Council's meeting?

[Paz Barnica] We had a very busy meeting at the Presidential House today. First we had the National Security Council meeting, under President Suazo Cordova's leadership, which lasted for several hours. [break in recording]... national activities and closely reviewed the various recent and current events, and their effects on Honduran interests and the Central American crisis. For example, we evaluated Belizean Prime Minister George Price's visit to our country, and the future approval of commercial and cultural agreements. Likewise, we analyzed the Central American situation and the Contadora Group's contacts, taking into consideration that it has been President Suazo Cordova's administration that has made specific, positive proposals regarding political, economic, social, and security aspects. We also analyzed and discussed our present relations with Nicaragua; the level of these relations, the tension that prevails due to certain attitudes by a Nicaraguan diplomatic representative, and acts of harassment, by land or sea, by the Nicaraguan Government. All this was reviewed on the basis of a common denominator: the Honduran Government's intention to achieve detente, to create the bases for a permanent peace in Central America, and to reiterate its support of the Contadora Group's contacts. Likewise, we evaluated the last meeting between the border delimitation commissions from Honduras and El Salvador, which took place some days ago in San Salvador. [end recording]

PAZ BARNICA REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON C.A. ISSUES

PA081522 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica yesterday presented a detailed report to the National Congress on the negotiations over the border problem with El Salvador. After his closed-door meeting with Congress, Paz Barnica explained that he had also reported to the legislators on talks with the Contadora Group. The foreign minister denied any knowledge of the advance of Nicaraguan tanks and forces near Honduras, adding that in the face of war threats, he speaks only of peace.

AMBASSADOR ALVARADO PUERTO RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

PA090043 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2108 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government today accepted the resignation of Andres Alvarado Puerto, the Honduran ambassador to Spain. The diplomat resigned as a result of his participation in the alleged exchange of a statue of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" for a diplomatic passport issued to Jose Maria Ruiz-Mateos, a Spanish businessman sought by the authorities. The statue belongs in a chapel that Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova is building with his own money and private contributions in his hometown of La Paz in the central zone of Honduras.

NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO NOTE TO SHULTZ CLAIMS CIA INVOLVEMENT

PA090417 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Mar 84

["Protest note" sent by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, on 8 March]

[Text] I address Your Excellency about the serious incidents that I detail below:

On 6 March 1984 at 2200, two Piranha speedboats attacked the Montelimar military installations with 81-mm mortars. The first attack lasted 10 minutes, after which the boats withdrew, only to return a few minutes later to launch a second attack with 81-mm mortars and machine guns. The speedboats withdrew once again and then returned to conduct a third and final attack, which lasted approximately 5 minutes. They then withdrew for the last time. These attacks, in which mortars installed in speedboats have been used for the first time, produced no casualties.

Yesterday, 7 March 1984 at approximately 1030, a truck coming from Honduras, which carried 9,000 gallons of propane gas, was sabotaged with explosives that are characteristic of the CIA moments after it entered Nicaragua in the Tapacales border area in Somoto. We must point out that this act of sabotage coincides with the presence of 200 U.S. Armed Forces troops and 7,200 Honduran Army soldiers on the Honduran border. Also, yesterday, 7 March 1984, at 2252, a speedboat and a fighter helicopter carried out a coordinated attack as they fired five rockets toward fuel depots in the border area but failed in their attempt to destroy the depots.

That same day at 2300, the Panamanian cargo vessel "North Caribe" was damaged when it presumably hit a mine as it traversed the port of Corinto near buoys three and four. Although the investigation to discover the cause of the explosion continues, we must note that the CIA's mercenary forces recently revealed in Costa Rica that they had mined the waters of the port of Corinto. Based on this fact, even though the investigations are continuing, the possibility that the Panamanian vessel hit a mine cannot be dismissed. There was considerable damage to the vessel.

While submitting its most formal and energetic protest over this new increase in the criminal attacks against Nicaraguan economic and military targets, which endanger densely populated civilian centers, the Nicaraguan Government wishes to express its firm conviction that these actions are a part of the new CIA strategy intended to sow terror in Nicaragua in view of the total failure of its former plans.

The attacks are also intended to affect the institutionalization process of the revolution and the strengthening of Nicaragua's democracy.

I take this opportunity to reiterate my utmost respect for Your Excellency.

[Signed] Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Foreign Minister

CORDOBA RIVAS ON HONDURAS, UPCOMING ELECTIONS

FL081840 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2240 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 7 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Stating that relations between Nicaragua and Honduras are extremely delicate, Rafael Cordoba Rivas, one of three members of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has accused the U.S. Government of promoting war between Tegucigalpa and Managua. In an exclusive interview with NOTIMEX, Cordoba Rivas, who is a member of the Conservative Democratic Party [PCD] executive Council (opposition) said: The current reality is that we must put up with deaths, fires, and bombings and that they -- the Hondurans -- only have to contend with protests. He said: The hairy hand -- as I call it -- of the CIA has always been involved in this because the CIA has always wanted war between the two countries.

Recalling old confrontations between the two countries, Cordoba Rivas said that Honduras has always lost to Nicaragua: In 1883 when Nicaraguan forces arrived in Tegucigalpa and in 1907 following the Battles of Namasihua and Maraita when Nicaraguan soldiers again took the capital. Thus the Hondurans know what kind of soldiers the Nicaraguans are.

He said that the counterrevolution has launched four major offensives to penetrate Nicaragua from Honduras and has been defeated four times. He added that without the assistance of the U.S. Government, the counterrevolution would be reduced to nothing.

Responding to a question on the possibilities for finding a peaceful resolution to the Central American conflict through the efforts of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama), Cordoba Rivas said that it would be a great advance if the Contadora Group could completely eliminate the negative influence of the United States on our continent because then the enemy could not interfere and the countries in the area could manage their own affairs. He admitted, however, that despite everything the Contadora Group has managed with its political and diplomatic activity to contain the Central American war, which is the greatest guarantee and a great triumph for peace in Latin America and perhaps in the world.

Speaking of this year's elections in Nicaragua, Cordoba Rivas confirmed his offer to be a Nicaraguan presidential candidate representing the PCD. After denying that the FSLN would nominate him for a more important post than the one he now occupies as a member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, the Nicaraguan politician admitted that his election chances would not be very good because there are others who have announced their candidacy.

The controversial Sandinist politician -- one of Nicaragua's three major leaders, the other two are Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado -- said that the November 1984 elections signify the institutionalization of the revolutionary process in Nicaragua and would be the cleanest in the history of Latin America.

In the interview, Cordoba Rivas said that although the signs indisputably point toward a Sandinist victory, there are always surprises and another political group could win.

REPORTAGE ON MINES LAID AT PORT OF CORINTO

Habor Declared Safe

PA081547 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Civilian Defense Board has guaranteed the security of the port. The ships currently docked at Corinto are conducting their loading and unloading operations normally despite reports here and abroad that counterrevolutionary forces have mined the waters around the port of Corinto. This false propaganda has been disproved by the report that there are no mines around the bay, where several ships from different countries are anchored. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Francisco Cajina, deputy military commander of the port of Corinto, said that port activities are proceeding normally.

Ship Damaged Leaving Port

PA090033 Paris AFP in Spanish 2342 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 8 Mar (AFP) -- A mine exploded at the port of Corinto, 150 km northeast of Managua, damaging the Panamanian ship "North Caribe," sources in Corinto have reported. The Defense Ministry confirmed that the "North Caribe" was damaged several miles off the port on Wednesday night while preparing to leave Nicaraguan waters. No crew member was wounded. Authorities began an investigation this afternoon to determine precisely what type of device caused the damage. It was also reported that the area was calm and that the ship was towed to the installations in Corinto, the country's most important port.

The mine explosion seemed to confirm last week's claim by the anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) that it had mined the Bay of Corinto, through which 80 percent of Nicaragua's exports and imports flow.

The Netherlands dredge "Geopotes Sexto," which is working at Corinto, was damaged on 1 February when it hit an alleged mine. The authorities denied, however, that this caused the damages.

It is estimated that if the port is indeed mined, the consequences for Nicaragua will be serious, because Nicaragua's leading products -- coffee, cotton, and sugar -- are exported at this time. Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega warned last week that he knew of a North American plan to establish a military blockade of the country's main ports. It was also recalled that two Nicaraguan boats sank at the port of El Bluff on 24 February when they hit a mine that was reportedly planted by Eden Pastora, ARDE's commander.

HALF CORINTO POPULATION TO BE RELOCATED

PA090233 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Half the population of the port of Corinto -- some 12,000 people -- will be relocated to El Realejo between 1984 and 2000, said architect Cristabel Rodriguez, head of the Housing Ministry's population center, at a news conference. He added that a study to be completed in the next few days will determine the exact procedure by which the residents of the railroad yard, loading ramp, and fuel depot sectors will be relocated to El Realejo.

Fernando Morales, chief of the Corinto-El Realejo project, said that the study for the relocation of a large portion of Corinto's population will provide state and private institutions as well as the people themselves the opportunity to suggest ideas for the best development of the El Realejo community. A total of 4,000 people will be moved to El Realejo during the1984-85 period, during which the Housing Ministry plans to build 500 homes.

Pedro Bravo, head of the Housing Ministry's Press and Information Office, said that the Corinto-El Realejo project includes the growth of the new city to be occupied by the Corinto residents and the expansion of the port installations. Another important aspect brought up at the news conference was the fact that the new port installations include a nautical school. El Realejo will be provided with a market, clinics, a bus terminal, and other necessary city services.

The cost of the primary phase, that is, the 1984-85 period, has been estimated to be 55 million cordobas, most of which will go toward housing.

STATE COUNCIL APPROVES SOLDIERS' RIGHT TO VOTE

PA081544 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Armed Forces will be able to vote in the 4 November elections. This was approved last night by the State Council. Ignacio Miranda, the delegate of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party [PLC], voted against the measure. The inclusion of the Armed Forces' right to vote in the electoral law was received with heavy applause from more than 100 combatants and officers of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], the Interior Ministry, and the Immigration Department who were present.

On opposing the Armed Forces' right to vote, the delegates of the PLC and the Democratic Conservative Party said that a national army does not exist in Nicaragua because the existing one is the EPS rather than a national army. Miranda said his party is against granting soldiers the right to vote. He referred to an alleged pact that the FSLN had made to make the EPS a national army.

Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, president of the State Council, said that at the triumph of the revolution, the organization and name of the EPS were exclusive to the FSLN. The State Council representatives stressed that the EPS is worthy of being called Sandinist because its origins are the legacy of General Sandino in the rescue of national dignity and sovereignty.

The seventh special session of the State Council will continue at 1000 today in the 11th day of discussions of the electoral law.

PSC DELEGATE AVENDANO WALKS OUT OF STATE COUNCIL

PA090225 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] In a surprise move last night, Fanor Avendano, Social Christian Party [PSC] representative, left his seat at the State Council. He said he was doing so because he had nothing to do [there], and that he was in the wrong place [desubicado]. Avendano responded this way after he tried to read a document that he described as a minority viewpoint opposing the election of a president, a vice president, and 90 representatives to the National Assembly. Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, president of the legislative body, called his report irrelevant, saying that the presidential election of 4 November is already law.

The PSC leader said that his party has never agreed with electing a president and a vice president in Nicaragua. FSLN representative Carmen Moreno reminded Avendano that the election of the Executive Branch is already a law and that the matter was, therefore, irrelevant. Avendano stressed that he was leaving because a party that betrays its own principles cannot be a party. Let him blow his head off because he is betraying himself. Avendano walked toward the street saying: Maybe we will unite soon.

COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL ON ELECTIONS

PA081844 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The democratic and progressive forces cannot sit down to talk with the enemies of the people, Comrade [camarada] Eli Altamirano, secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCN], told the "Extra" newscast yesterday while commenting on the rightist political parties' request for a national dialogue that would include counter-revolutionary leaders. Referring to the installation and swearing in of the National Assembly of Political Parties, Altamirano said that it is an excellent step within the framework of the country's democracy. He also indicated that the PCN will participate in the elections, adding that it is preparing for them.

[Begin recording] [Altamirano] The installation of the National Assembly of Political Parties is a significant event. The government is continuing to make efforts to ease tensions in the country as much as possible so as to achieve the political resolution to controversial problems. A very significant sign is the fact that all the parties that were asked to participate did so. This shows the parties' willingness to join the democratic efforts being undertaken by the Government on National Reconstruction.

[Unidentified reporter] What steps is the PCN taking for its participation in the National Assembly of Political Parties?

[Altamirano] We are taking steps for the official incorporation of the PCN. These are new things in our political processes, and therefore the steps to be taken must be coordinated with the proper authorities in charge of the legal organization of these aspects. In this case, we have already delegated some leadership cadres to obtain all the necessary information and to proceed to fulfill the legal requirements.

[Reporter] How do you view the rightist parties' request for a dialogue with the counterrevolutionary leaders?

[Altamirano] It would be good if these parties gave up this aspiration, which brings them no credit. On the contrary, it shows them to be spokesmen of the counterrevolution. One cannot expect a government that represents broad popular sectors and the most important immediate aspirations of the Nicaraguan people to be indifferent to the attacks and criminal actions of the counterrevolution and at the same time to be indifferent to the individuals leading those military actions. Therefore, we view as unfortunate and as condemnable the desire to have the democratic and progressive forces hold a dialogue with the reactionary, criminal, imperialist, and Somozist forces. We think that the Democratic Coordinating Board and all its allies that are demanding that dialogue should think about giving up such an aspiration and about behaving a little more decently in presenting themselves before the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] What do you think of George Shultz' remarks about supervision of the Nicaraguan elections?

[Altamirano] I hope the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction will firmly maintain its high patriotism and will not let itself be swayed by the conditions set by the State Department spokesmen. Even though our country is under siege by imperialism, it is a free, sovereign country, and it must therefore solve its problems with full self-determination. We completely oppose any attempts to supervise the electoral process in our country. [end recording]

CORRECTION TO PASTORA ON MINING OF HARBORS

The following corrections to the item headlined "Pastora on Mining of Harbors, FSLN Government," published in the 7 March Latin America DAILY REPORT on pages P 15-17, are supplied from a rebroadcast of the item by (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 2300 GMT on 7 March:

Page P 15, third paragraph, line two should read: mining the ports because Nicaragua is at... (supplying indistinct word and rephrasing)

Fourth paragraph, line one should read: ...Reportedly a Netherlands dredge, the day following... (supplying indistinct word)

Same paragraph, last line should read: ...laws -- were damaged.

Well, this is the irresponsibility of Tomas Borge... (picking up fifth paragraph, supplying indistinct words)

Sixth paragraph, line two should read: ...the 182-mm, 180-mm, and 152-mm guns, which are monsters. What can he... (supplying indistinct words)

Page P 16, fourth paragraph, line two should read: ...pay for it. Fidel, you are going to pay for it to us. I swear it. You will not pay for it only if you order me killed, for this and all other massacres which your advisers are promoting. And the directorate of the nine... (rephrasing and clearing indistinct words)

Same paragraph, last line should read: ...the Managua terrorists.

We are tired of... (picking up fifth paragraph, clearing queried word)

Antepenultimate paragraph, line three should read: ...Are helping the directorate in Managua. Let the communists in Managua give thanks to these mummies who are in Tegucigalpa, wishing to return to the past. It is because of these mummies that 7,000 heroic peasants, who are as heroic as those in the south, are not crossing the border, because the Nicaraguan people do not let anything that smells like the Guard cross the border. This is a... (clearing indistinct passage)

Same paragraph, antepenultimate line should read: ...Humberto, Daniel, Jaime Wheelock, Bayardo, Luis Carrion, Tirado Lopez, give thanks to... (clearing indistinct names)

Page P 17, third paragraph, first line should read: ...you will leave the way those who dared blemish our fatherland's territory did -- dead or completely squashed. That is the way you will leave Nicaragua. This third defeat -- Jamaica, Grenada, and Nicaragua -- will be your political death. Then you will become convinced that the road to Havana passes through Managua.

April and May... (picking up fourth paragraph, clearing indistinct words and correcting word)

Fourth paragraph, penultimate line should read: ...who taught us, very seriously, our immortal slogan... (clearing indistinct words)

CASTRO MEETS WITH LEBANESE COMMUNIST DELEGATION

FL081918 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, has held fraternal talks with George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP], in the Palace of the Revolution. Hawi and his delegation are visiting our country at the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee.

During the friendly talks, the Lebanese communist delegation was assured of our party's sympathy and solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Lebanese people against imperialist and Zionist aggression.

Also participating in the meeting were Albert Farhat and (Maurice Hadda), member of the LCP Politburo and LCP representative in Cuba, respectively, and Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the party Politburo, member of the Secretariat, and chief of the Central Committee Foreign Relations General Department, as well as other party officials.

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION TOURS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL081512 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The Hungarian delegation headed by Ferenc Marta, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee and director of the Mining and Earth Sciences Department of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, is touring Santiago de Cuba. Marta arrived in the city accompanied by Wilfredo Torres, member of the Central Committee and president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

Commenting on his visit to the future Solar Energy Institute, which will become the national research center for Solar energy as well as other unconventional energy resources, Marta said that he was impressed by the outlook of this institute, whose first phase will begin in May.

The group also visited places of historical, scientific, and tourist interest.

FLAP SECRETARY GENERAL DENOUNCES RADIO MARTI

FL081410 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Danilo Aguirre [as heard], secretary general of the Latin American Federation of Journalists [FLAP], making a brief transit stop in Cuba, has said in a press conference that the FLAP is in agreement with any measure that Cuba might take to counteract the effects of the planned counterrevolutionary radio station.

Aguirre stated that despite the difficulties that President Ronald Reagan is encountering in the United States, he has continued his efforts to install the inappropriately-named Radio Marti, which is supposed to go on the air next May. He added that Washington is carrying out a massive manipulation of information with the objective of continuing its aggression against Nicaragua, the Central American peoples, and Latin America in general. He said that in the face of this activity, the FLAP will hold two conferences for the purpose of mobilizing the forces of journalism to counterattack the information axis controlled by imperialism in Latin America.

POLICE REPORTEDLY BREAK INTO PERUVIAN EMBASSY

PA090145 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0126 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Havana, 8 Mar (EFE) -- Police have broken into the Peruvian Embassy in Havana to take two hunger strikers to the hospital. The presence of the police struck fear into the refugees, who apparently prepared to resist.

The 15 Cubans who have been in the Peruvian Embassy in Havana since 1980 were transferred elsewhere for a few hours following the incident. The incident ended when the police forced the refugees to leave the building. The two hunger strikers were then taken to the hospital and the others to an unknown location. They were later returned to the embassy building.

However, Cuban sources deny that anything happened. They maintain that some ambulances arrived to transfer some of the "encloistered" people who needed medical treatment to the hospital, and that the rumor of the incident was circulated when the ambulances were spotted.

Embassy Denies Incident

PA090217 Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Havana, 8 Mar (AFP) -- Reliable sources from the Peruvian Embassy in Havana denied tonight that the Cuban police last week evacuated and later returned to the building 15 Cubans, who for the past 4 years have been given refuge at the embassy.

Diplomatic sources had reported that the evacuation took place after two of the refugees, who were on a hunger strike, asked to see a doctor. According to the sources, the Cubans were afraid, and some of them even resisted, using knives, when the police entered the premises to take the strikers to a hospital. The same sources said the police used tear gas to evacuate the 15 refugees. According to these sources, the two, who refused to eat, were taken to a hospital and the others to an unknown destination before police returned them to the Peruvian Embassy.

Peruvian Embassy sources said here tonight that "there has been no hunger strike by the refugees since last December. The 15 refugees are in perfect health, and the situation is absolutely normal at the building" of the embassy where they are, the sources concluded.

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION INAUGURATED IN CIENFUEGOS

FL081555 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpts] A 220-kw electrical substation has been inaugurated in Cienfuegos, thus guaranteeing and giving greater flexibility to the energy supply in that province, which is involved in agroindustrial development. We have a report by Manuel Varela Perez:

This installation will strengthen the country's electrical system. It is located at the [name indistinct] Cespedes Thermoelectrical Plant in this provincial capital and will be linked to the electronuclear center being built in the Juragua area in the near future. This substation will supply energy to that center and the oil refinery being built in Cienfuegos.

The substation cost approximately 10 million pesos. Construction began in 1978 with the help of our Soviet brothers in the various stages of building, installation, and operation.

300 ARRESTED IN COSTA RICAN LAND CONFLICT

PA081654 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Costa Rican rural police for the past 2 days have been trying to evict 400 families from the Coto Brus area in southern Costa Rica. Police repression so far has resulted in 1 peasant dead, 12 wounded, and 300 arrested. Twenty-two-year-old Antonio Prendas was killed by a bullet when the Costa Rican rural police tried to forcefully evict the hundreds of peasant families which more than a year ago settled on land owned by a U.S. company 300 km from San Jose.

EL SALVADOR'S FMLN CITED ON U.S. INTERVENTIONISM

FL080215 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] A report by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Luis Cabrera has been received from Managua on the message from El Salvador's FMLN condemning terrorist attacks and the mining of Nicaragua's ports by CIA-backed anti-Sandinist forces.

[Begin Cabrera recording] The FMLN has voiced its solidarity with the Sandinist People's Revolution in the face of the cowardly terrorist attacks, the mining of the waters and reefs of El Bluff, and the CIA attacks.

Radio Venceremos, the official voice of the FMLN, has issued a communique, signed by the FMLN General Command -- made up of Commanders Leonel Gonzalez, Roberto Roca, Ferman Cienfuegos, Shaffick Jorge Handal, and Joaquin Villalobos -- condemning the criminal act of mining the El Bluff reef near the Atlantic entrance of the Nicaraguan port. According to the communique, Reagan's government ordered this action and it was carried out by CIA-backed counterrevolutionaries based in Honduras and Costa Rica.

Nobody doubts that Reagan's government is responsible for this new villainy. The U.S. Government has publicly admitted that it arms and finances Somozist counterrevolutionaires. It is Reagan's government that has supplied Yankee military Piranha-type speedboats, which have constantly attacked Nicaraguan port facilities from Honduras.

The FMLN expressed its decision to fulfill its sacred internationalist duty -- not only in words but also by carrying out firm and anti-imperialist combative actions. Reagan must not think, the message stressed, that his villainies will go unpunished. He should not imagine that his agents and lackeys can commit the crimes he has ordered and remain safe and sound.

The mines in the waters around El Bluff and the threats to mine Corinto Port, together, with the escalated intervention in El Salvador and the ignominious invasion of Grenada, are an affront and a challenge to Latin American dignity. These actions are a display of the barbarian chains of imperialism, telling us that Yankee imperialism is determined to keep its control. And for this it prefers the Somozas, the Somozists, the genocidal dictatorships of El Salvador and Guatemala, Duvalier in Haiti, Stroessner in Paraguay, and the fascist dictatorships of Chile and Paraguay.

To this the FSLN, along with the heroic Nicaraguan people and their vanguard, the underfeatable Salvadoran people, and the FMLN respond: We will never surrender. We will defeat each and every attack and imperialist escalation. We will repel every attack. We will be free, independent, and victorious. We will build the just society we are fighting for, whether the U.S. Government likes it or not. [end recording]

SALVADORAN FDR FORCES CLAIM WIDE OCCUPATION

PA081753 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Statement by Eduardo Calles, vice president of the Salvadoran FDR; no place or date given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Our forces have a high technical-military capability. We have very good equipment, which we have captured from the enemy, including light artillery pieces. No one can say that we somehow brought them into El Salvador. They have definitely been captured from the enemy.

Our forces are so highly respected now that there are areas where the enemy cannot enter, except in brief forays from which they immediately retreat after suffering heavy losses.

Our forces now have a high technical capacity and good morale. There are areas that the enemy avoids completely. People's governments are in operation in these areas. Practcally all of Chalatenango and Morazan, the northern parts of San Miguel and La Union, and the central and southern areas of Usulutan and Guazapa -- which has become famous because it is a stronghold of people's forces a scant kilometer from the capital city -- are in our hands. The enemy definitely cannot enter these areas. They enter sometimes for brief attacks, but our forces either face them frontally or let them advance and then attack them. These are areas respected by the enemy. Our forces have grown as the support of the people has increased. This support is what sustains our forces.

Our forces are so large, so powerful that they are inflicting blows on the enemy. Our forces can operate in any area -- even those that the enemy considers safe from attack. The destruction of the Chalatenango Garrison at the end of last year is an example of this.

FIGHTING, ARMY CASUALTIES REPORTED IN EL SALVADOR

FMLN Attacks Army Positions

PA081651 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Salvadoran FMLN forces have launched three attacks against military posts in San Vicente Department. The Salvadoran Armed Forces are conducting a so-called pacification plan in that area of the country. This plan is similar to the so-called strategic villages plan carried out by U.S. troops in Vietnam.

The Army has also admitted that it suffered four casualties during the guerrilla attacks against Verapaz, Guadalupe, and San Emigdio, in San Vicente. The official report did not mention any casualties among the guerrilla forces.

Fierce clashes between rebels and government troops were also reported in the eastern Departments of San Miguel and Morazan. It was reported that military reinforcements were sent to replace an undetermined number of government casualties.

Fighting in San Vicente

FL081446 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from San Jose, Costa Rica, indicate that there has been intense fighting in recent hours in the central Salvadoran Department of San Vicente between guerrilla commandos and government forces.

SALPRESS News Agency has stated that the rebels attacked the regime's positions in the towns of Verapaz and Guadalupe, killing several government troops. The patriotic troops are carrying out the new rebel offensive which began on 25 February and which has been designated "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977."

It was also announced that the situation in El Salvador has become dangerous for the country's regime after more than 30,000 workers stopped work for 2 hours.

30 Army Casualties

PA081850 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Some 30 Salvadoran Army troops were either killed or wounded during the most recent clashes with the guerrilla forces in various zones of the Departments of San Vicente, San Miguel, and San Salvador.

In San Vicente, the guerrillas seized the villages of Guadalupe, Verapaz, and San Emilio. In the course of an operation called "Long Live the Revolutionary Woman Who Struggles for Peace," the rebels seized many weapons and other military supplies.

In San Luis de la Reina, in San Miguel, the rebels defeated the 3d Infantry Brigade, which abandoned six dead and several seriously wounded men in the combat area.

In San Salvador guerrillas attacked a national police vehicle carrying reinforcements to the interior.

For its part, Radio Venceremos, the FMLN's official voice, has reported that from 21 February to 5 March the guerrillas in licted 88 casulaties on the enemy, seized 54 weapons, and sabotaged 13 electrical facilities.

COMMENTARY DENOUNCES ATTACKS ON NICARAGUA

PA082352 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 7 Mar 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The counterrevolutionary groups that the United States has financed and armed to attack Nicaragua have increased their criminal activities in the past few days, raising border tension to a new peak.

Nicaragua's response to the counterrevolutionary bands that operate in parts of Costa Rica near the border has been used as a pretext for obstructing the two countries' relations.

Elements from the so-called Third Path Movement have repeatedly attacked Nicaraguan border areas. In view of these attacks, the Sandinist People's Army strengthened its border defenses at a point where unidentified military forces, which turned out to be Costa Rican Rural Guards, had been operating without identifying flags.

Although Costa Rican Public Security Minister Edmundo Solano admitted that the attack was launched from Costa Rica, the San Jose government recalled its ambassador in Managua and decided to withdraw its delegates to a mixed commission that is examining bilateral issues in an effort to avoid incidents of this sort.

A few days later, Nicaragua again had to repel new counterrevolutionary attacks. Mercenary groups failed to destroy economic installations in the area of El Bluff, in the south Atlantic region of Nicaragua's Zelaya Department.

A Nicaraguan protest note addressed to the U.S. State Department charged that this criminal attack was a tactic intended to blockade Nicaragua. Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto charged that the speedboat used to carry out this attack is of the sort that the CIA provides the counterrevolutionary forces, which have operational bases in Honduras and which also operate from Costa Rica.

In another protest note sent on 2 March to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Miguel D'Escoto noted the gravity of these actions. The note was sent after Corinto, Managua's main port on the Pacific coast, was mined.

ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], a counterrevolutionary organization that claimed credit for both attacks in a note issued in San Jose, declared Nicaragua's coasts war zones. This confirms the U.S. intention to impose a blockade on Nicaragua. Thus, in the area of economics, the United States continues to apply discriminatory measure against Nicaraguan products, while at the military level, it uses mercenary groups as a front for launching attacks.

The mining of Nicaragua's ports is an unaceeptable act of piracy that represents a threat to international traffic. Those carrying out these actions have the full support of the U.S. Government, which continues to seek even more funds for its secret war on Nicaragua. This U.S. intervention is Central America only serves to complicate the problems of the region, and impedes economic and political efforts to find a peaceful solution.

NICARAGUAN PROTEST READ AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL

PA081607 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The note sent by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to his Honduran counterpart Edgardo Paz Barnica has been read at the UN Security Council. D'Escoto denounced the attacks carried out against the border towns of Bilwaskarma, Leimus, and Waspan. The note condemned armed attacks by helicopters based in Honduran territory against ferry installations in Potosi and a patrol boat guarding the Punta San Jose sector in the Gulf of Fonseca.

It was reported in Managua that seven militiamen were killed in operations against Nicaragua in the Department of Zelaya.

WPC CALLS FOR CESSATION OF ATTACKS ON NICARAGUA

FL082105 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The WPC has called for an urgent mobilization to stop provocative actions against Nicaragua by the Honduran Army and the counterrevolutionary bands supported advised, and financed by the United States.

A WPC statement issued today in Helsinki reiterated its solidarity with the Nicaraguan Government and its constant efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Central American conflicts. The document commented on the most recent ground and air attacks on Nicaragua and noted that there is evidence that a concentration of large contingents of soldiers are preparing for subsequent incursions from Honduras. The WPC urged all peace-loving groups to stop the aggression against Nicaragua now.

NICARAGUA GRANTS VOTING RIGHTS TO MILITARY

PA090426 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan State Council has voted to allow Nicaraguan Armed Forces members to vote in the elections. It has also decided that the Nicaraguan military cannot engage in propaganda activities while on active duty.

Recognition of the military's voting right was opposed by the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, the Democratic Conservative Party, and the Social Christian Party, whose representative, Fanor Avendano, left the meeting hall where the electoral bill was being discussed.

Thus far 72 articles of the law to regulate the 4 November elections in Nicaragua have been approved.

NICARAGUA DENOUNCES INCREASED CONTRA ACTIVITIES

PA081935 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has denounced three new air and naval attacks staged by anti-Sandinists on border areas and military facilities in Nicaragua's Atlantic and Pacific areas.

Several Piranha-type boats attacked the Sandinist People's Army military base in Montelimar. At about the same time, two unidentified planes that flew in from Honduras strafed the Nicaraguan border post of Leimus, in Zelaya Department. Three other attacks were staged Tuesday by Honduran troops and former Somozist guardsmen on the border town of Santo Tomas del Norte in Chinandega.

The counterrevolutionaries' air, land, and naval incursions have intensified so far this month in northern Nicaragua, and these incursions have been duly denounced by the Sandinist government. A total of 11 Nicaraguans, including a 1-year-old girl, have already lost their lives in what is regarded as the beginning of a new aggressive escalation, Interior Minister Tomas Borge said on Saturday.

On another subject, Nicaragua has described the expulsion of Javier Aviles Ibarra, counselor for its embassy in Honduras, as an unfriendly action. Aviles Ibarra was declared persona non grata and expelled from the country by the authorities in Tegucigalpa. In an official communique released in Managua, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry explained that this decision was in reprisal for a statement by Aviles Ibarra that the Honduran regime had denied permission to a delegation of Moravian pastors to visit Miskito Indian camps. This visitation denial, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique stressed, demonstrates that the Honduran Government is unwilling to fulfill the commitments made at a Contadora Group meeting on the voluntary repatriation of refugees.

Attack on Port Fails

FL082110 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] A military source has reported that San Juan del Sur, a Nicaraguan port, was attacked by two speedboats and a helicopter which tried to destroy fuel tanks. According to this report issued by Captain Ivan Tercero, the two Piranha speedboats fired machine guns while the helicopter fired rockets, but they were unable to hit their target.

The attack on the port. located 138 km south of Managua. lasted 13 minutes. There were no casualties or property damage. This new operation was carried out 2 days after two similar speedboats attacked several Sandinist People's Army installations. On that occasion, the speedboats used 81-mm mortars which previously had only been used by ground forces.

HONDURAN OIL TANKER EXPLODES IN NICARAGUA

FL082055 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] It has been reported from Managua that an oil tanker carrying 9,000 gallons of propane gas was destroyed by dynamite shortly after entering Nicaragua from Honduras.

Subcommander Roger Mayorga, second delegate of the Interior Ministry of the 1st Military Region, reported that the incident occurred a few kilometers from the El Espino Customs Post. He added that the driver of the vehicle was forced to park the truck near a Honduran military post 500 km from the customs post. This is very unusual, he said.

Mayorga noted that a Honduran officer asked the driver to go across the border and that the dynamite exploded approximately 5 km from the border. The dynamite was placed on the truck before it crossed the border.

BOMB DESTROYS CHILEAN NATIONAL RADIO STATION

PA082021 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The explosion of a powerful bomb last night destroyed the government's Radio Nacional in the Chilean city of Concepcion. The incident occurred shortly after a group of six armed persons occupied the offices of Radio Carreras in Santiago and broadcast an antigovernment proclamation. According to police sources, this action lasted 10 minutes. The attackers included five men and one woman.

According to other reports, 24 people were arrested in Santiago during a police raid on a school in the Chilean capital.

For his part, Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet has reasserted that he will remain in power until 1989. In a statement to local journalists, Pinochet said that the demand by political organizations and unions for the abolition of the National Information Center, which is responsible for many killings and acts of torture, will not be met. Further on, the Chilean dictator complained that what he described as a defamatory campaign has been unleashed against him and his family because of the houses he owns. The construction of a lavish home for Pinochet in an exclusive neighborhood in the capital, at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars, has elicited an irate protest from popular sectors, which do not understand such squandering of money in a country whose debt totals almost $20 billion.

ECUADOR MAY IMPLEMENT STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA081945 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government is studying the possibility of implementing a state of emergency in the eastern part of the country, where a stretch of the trans-Andean pipeline was dynamited yesterday, making it necessary to suspend oil exports. The sabotage occurred near the city of Baeza, Napo Province, whose residents are striking to demand more government attention to the eastern part of the country.

Government Minister Vladimiro Alvarez told the press that the situation in the area is under control because the pipeline and other oil facilities are now under the Armed Forces' protection. However, he indicated that if deemed necessary a state of emergency will be declared in the region.

Nevertheless, the experts of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation have asserted that the pipeline could not be repaired because striking residents kept technicians from reaching the site. The sabotage reportedly caused the loss of some 15,000 barrels of oil.

PERU EXTENDS CURFEW TO HUANCAVELICA DEPARTMENT

PA081756 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The curfew established in several cities of the Peruvian Department of Ayacucho has been extended to Huancavelica Department. A state of emergency has been in force in these two departments, as well as in Apurimac Province, since 1972. The Peruvian Armed Forces have assumed control of the zone since December 1973 in order to facilitate the struggle against the armed group Shining Path.

It has been reported that supposed members of this armed group attacked a police garrison in Arequipa. As a result of this action, 40 people have been detained.

BARBADOS

TULL ON RESTRUCTURING TIES WITH NEIGHBORS

FL082258 Bridgetown CANA in English 2155 GMT 8 Mar 84

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 8 (CANA) -- Barbados, after taking "a long, hard, and critical look" at relations with its Caribbean neighbours, has come up with some "very firm recommendations" on how to go about restructuring ties with regional countries, Foreign Minister Louis Tull said today. He was bringing reporters up to date on week-long discussions here involving the heads of Barbados' overseas diplomatic missions on the successes and shortcomings of the government's foreign policy. Tull said the examination of Barbados' intra-regional links was warranted by "what has been happening in this region...in the last few months" -- an apparent reference to last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in which Barbados played a leading role. "...We have come up with some very firm recommendations as to how we should go about restructuring the Caribbean community, and I don't mean just Caricom but contact between all states in the Caribbean in the immediate and medium-term future," the foreign minister said. He declined to elaborate, saying he will give full details on this and other decisions at a news conference scheduled for Saturday. The diplomats' conference ends tomorrow.

The heads of mission also had "a good look" at Barbados' relations with traditional partners the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Relations with the European Community were also discussed at length.

Tull, noting the "hammering" Barbados has taken in the United Nations for its involvement in the Grenada intervention, said the meeting has reassessed the island's position in the world body. "We will continue to do a serious post mortem and see how we can come out with a new plan, a new strategy to pick up the pieces from the Grenada situation..." he said. "We studied that quite a bit, and I believe we have some very firm suggestions as to how we may go about rebuilding the type of rapport we had with individual countries and the organisation itself before intervention...."

Tull said the meeting had also looked at devising "a better collaborative scheme" between the Foreign Affairs Ministry and other government ministries that deal with foreign matters to better achieve the island's foreign policy objectives.

BRIEFS

NEW COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR -- Bridgetown, Barbados, March 7 (CANA) -- The Barbados Government today announced the appointment of ex-journalist and diplomat Peter Simmons to the new post of director of communications. The director will advise the minister of information on all aspects of mass communication policy, telecommunication services, and be the ministry's link with telecommunication agencies in Barbados and abroad, an official statement said. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2219 GMT 7 Mar 84 FL]

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT DENIES SUPPORTING COUP CELEBRATION

FL082205 Bridgetown CANA in English 1845 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 8 (CANA) -- Grenada's interim government said today it had given no support to celebrations planned by supporters of the ousted People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) to observe the fifth anniversary of the March 13, 1979 coup that brought the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop to power. A government statement outlining the administration's position came after regional radio stations reported the organisers as saying that officialdom had given its blessing to the celebrations.

"The attention of the Government Information Service has been drawn to radio reports which were aired on certain regional networks alleging that the Advisory Council of Grenada had given permission for the celebrations, said the statement read over state-run Radio Grenada. "The Government Information Service, on behalf of the Government of Grenada, wishes to categorically deny that any such permission was granted or even sought."

The celebrations are being coordinated by the Maurice Bishop October 19, 1983 Martyrs Foundation, set up by three ex-PRG ministers to honours and perpetuate the memory of Bishop and others killed in the October's military coup.

The government statement added: "The facts of the matter are that the member responsible for culture, Mrs Joan Purcell, was approached by Mr George Louison (ex-agriculture minister) in a letter dated 27th February in which Mr Louison stateed that his organisation, the Maurice Bishop October 19th, 1983 Martyrs Foundation, had planned a commemorative cultural event in honour of the late Maurice Bishop and others who were massacred on October 19, 1983. Mr Louison further advised that the "cultural events" were scheduled for March 13th, 1984. In that letter, the minister of culture was asked to facilitate the smooth entry of overseas artistes into the country.

In response to Mr Louison's request, Mrs Purcell stated that the immigration and security authorities would have no difficulties in permitting entry of the persons named in Mr Louison's letter, but that the government would wish to be informed in advance of the other non-nationals who were expected to arrive in Grenada for the planned event. "In the light of these facts, therefore, the Government Information Service considers that the report was intended to create confusion in the minds of the public," the statement said.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BANKING SYSTEM REGISTERS FOREIGN ASSETS DROP

FL071724 Bridgetown CANA in English 1651 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 7 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago's banking system reflected the current downturn in the oil-rich state's economic activity by registering a foreign assets decline of over 2 billion dollars (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) from January to September last year, the state-owned Merchant Bank said. Foreign assets in the banking system stood at 7.1 billion dollars at the beginning of last year and were down to 4.9 billion dollars at the end of last September.

The International Industrial Merchant Bank of Trinidad and Tobago pointed out in its just released quarterly economic bulletin for December 1983 that the assets decline started in 1982. Assets declined from 7.8 billion dollars in January 1982 to 6.9 billion in September the same year.

The 1982 decline was the first since 1973, when assets fell by 19.1 million dollars, the Merchant Bank said. It observed that from [year indistinct] -1982, the foreign assets of the banking system increased by 7.7 billion dollars. The country experienced a windfall of petrodollars from 1974 to 1981 because of a world market price hike.

"Developments in the banking system in 1983 reflected, as was expected, the downturn in economic activity," said the bank.

"The major characteristics in these developments were the fall in foreign assets levels, a slowdown in money supply growth (defined as currency in circulation plus total deposits), and in the face of unabated credit expansion, a consequent tightening in the liquidity situation and rising interest rates."

While linking the rise and fall of foreign assets to fluctuations in production and the price of petroleum, the Merchant Bank said the failure of non-oil imports to fall had accentuated the foreign assets decline. "The recent fall in foreign assets has been accentuated by the failure of non-oil imports to fall," said the bank, "although there are signs of slowed growth."

It noted that in 1982, when foreign assets fell by 697.6 million dollars, the value of non-oil imports increased over the previous year by 1.8 billion dollars. "However, in the seven months to July 1983, while foreign assets fell by 1,313.9 million dollars, the increase in non-oil imports as compared to the previous year was only 302.9 million," the quarterly bulletin noted.

The Merchant Bank also stated that the movement in foreign assets had been "a major influence" in money supply growth.

In August last year the Merchant Bank became a fully-owned subsidiary of the state-owned National Commercial Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (NCB). Previous to that, the bank was owned jointly by NCB (60 per cent) and the Banque Paribas of Paris (40 per cent). The Merchant Bank's services include raising finance for productive projects and issuing of letters of credit for the business community.

SUGAR OFFICIAL SAYS STRIKE COULD HALT PRODUCTION

FL081900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1553 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 8 (CANA) -- An official of Guyana's state-run sugar industry said today the absence of sugar boilers from the job as a result of a strike by 1,200 workers was likely to cause sugar production to come to a standstill. The spokesman for the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) said these workers played a key role in the manufacture of sugar and unless the company can make other arrangements, production may be curtailed.

Sugar boilers, along with clerical and supervisory staff, walked off the job last Monday to protest Guysuco's delay in paying them wage increases retroactive to June 1979. The strike today entered the fourth day. It was called by the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE) to back demands for the implementation of a court decision that awarded the workers the wage increases.

The opposition-backed Guyana Agricultural and General Worker's Union (GAWU), which represents the majority of the 27,000 sugar workers, has come out in support of NAACIE in the dispute.

The clerical staff of the country's 10 sugar estates are members of NAACIE and are among those off the job. Others include the dispensers and nurses.

While Guysuco has admitted the importance of the workers on strike, it has declined comment on the impact of the stoppage. The spokesman said work was continuing.

The Trade Union Congress (TUC), the umbrella organisation of the 21 trade unions here, has called in NAACIE for talks today, with the objective of resolving the dispute. A spokesman for NAACIE said much depends on the talks with the TUC, but he added "we will continue the strike until our just demands are met."

Guysuco Accused of Breaking Strike

FL082223 Bridgetown CANA in English 1750 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 8 (CANA) -- The National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), at the centre of a four-day strike by 1,200 workers in the state-run sugar industry, today accused the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) of embarking on "strike-breaking tactics." General Secretary Nankishore Gopaul said Guysuco has recruited retired workers, pensioners, and apprentices in an attempt to break the strike.

Sugar boilers, clerical and supervisory staff at the 10 sugar estates here walked off the job Monday to protest Guysuco's delay in paying them wage increases retroactive to 1979 as ordered by the local courts. A Guysuco spokesman said the absence from the job of the sugar boilers, who play a key role in the manufacturing process, could lead to a halt in production.

NAACIE today met with officials of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and brought the parent body up to date on the dispute. Gopaul spoke of "satisfaction with the solidarity expressed by the Guyana Agricultural and General Worker's Union (GAWU) and the Guyana Field Foremen and Supervisor Union (GFFU)." NAACIE said that work was going on "intermittently" in the industry. "The factories cannot operate but for a few hours every day and...this process cannot continue for long," Gopaul said.

Among the 1,200 workers on strike are those concerned with making up the payroll for the industry's 27,000 workers. NAACIE said there were possibilities that the workers will not be paid, and this could lead to a worsening of the dispute.

UNION THREATENS ACTION IF HARASSMENT CONTINUES

FL080146 Bridgetown CANA in English 2223 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 7 (CANA) -- The opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has backed the Guyana Agricultural and General Worker's Union (GAWU) and has threatened to resort to "appropriate action" if it "continues to be harassed under the guise of the National Security Act," which provides for detention for long periods without charge.

The union statement followed a police search of GAWU's premises in the busy Regent Street shopping area in Georgetown for arms and ammunition. Under the provisions of the Act the security forces can enter any premises without a warrant.

"The union views the search as an act of harassment which is being used to intimidate it because of its recent ultimatum to the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) over the distribution of essential and basic foodstuff to its members," the union said.

GAWU, which represents 17,000 workers in the sugar industry, had threatened industrial action because of what it termed discriminatory distribution of essential food items traditionally in short supply here. The action was averted when the Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection implemented a system under which workers in the industry began receiving the needed foodstuff.

"The government has no doubt become very sensitive over the publicity which the intended strike has had on its image on the denial of foodstuff to workers who labour in the fields and has now decided to retaliate with all intentions of covering the union," GAWU said.